



Wastewater and Ebola

For Hospital Officials and Medical Professionals

10/28/2014

Safe handling of Ebola-contaminated wastewater for facilities served by a municipal wastewater collection and treatment system

The Ebola virus is rapidly destroyed by exposure to disinfectants, sewage, and the wastewater treatment process. We've identified measures you can take to protect employees who may be working in the sewer-collection system that serves your facility.

We recommend the following steps:

1. Add the work and after-hours phone numbers of your sewer utility provider to your emergency call list.
2. Discuss your procedures and communication plan with the sewer utility manager.
3. Notify the sewer utility provider immediately if you start treating a suspected or confirmed Ebola patient.
4. When emptying a bedpan or disposing of other patient waste, add one cup of household bleach to the toilet and let stand for five minutes before flushing. The bleach can be added before or after placing the waste in the toilet. If the patient's condition doesn't allow a five-minute hold, add additional chlorine, up to two cups.
5. Lab waste containing chemicals should be disposed of using normal protocols for chemical waste. Any waste disposed through a sink or toilet should be disinfected with a small amount of bleach, but be careful about mixing disinfectants with other chemicals.
6. Solid wastes (gowns, towels, gloves, sharps, etc.) cannot be discarded into the sewer system. Those materials must be discarded through the hospital medical waste program.
7. If the sewer utility requests information on the patient's prior locations, refer the question to the local health jurisdiction.
8. Periodically check the [Washington Department of Health webpage](#) for updated information.